

October 1, 1969

Honorable John J. McCloy,
One Chase Manhattan Plaza,
New York, New York 10005.

Dear Jack:

On my return from extensive traveling around the world, I found your letter of July 16th concerning the Thompson book on the assassination of President Kennedy.

I have given some thought to your contemplated reply to Bernard Geis Associates concerning the publication. You ask my opinion as to whether this letter should be sent. I make bold to say that I would not send it if I were you although I agree with every word in it.

To me, it is quite obvious that Mr. Geis is desirous of stirring up a controversy which will further the sale of the Thompson book and perhaps prompt other writing. The endorsements of the book which he quotes are obviously of passing comment and have not, as far as I know, stirred up any demand for a re-examination of the assassination. If members of the Commission could be led into a debate as to the reliability of Mr. Thompson's assessment of the facts as opposed to that of the Commission, there are plenty of people who would take sides for the sake of argument. Believing as I do that the Report is sound in its conclusions, I would not engage in any such controversy. On the other hand, if it should ever become a serious matter and responsible people who are objective in the matter need some enlightenment, I believe your letter would then be very much in order, and I personally would save it for such an occasion.

I am leaving again tomorrow for Europe and will be away throughout October, but I expect to return on November 5th. I hope that if at any time after that you are in Washington that we may have the opportunity for a visit.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,